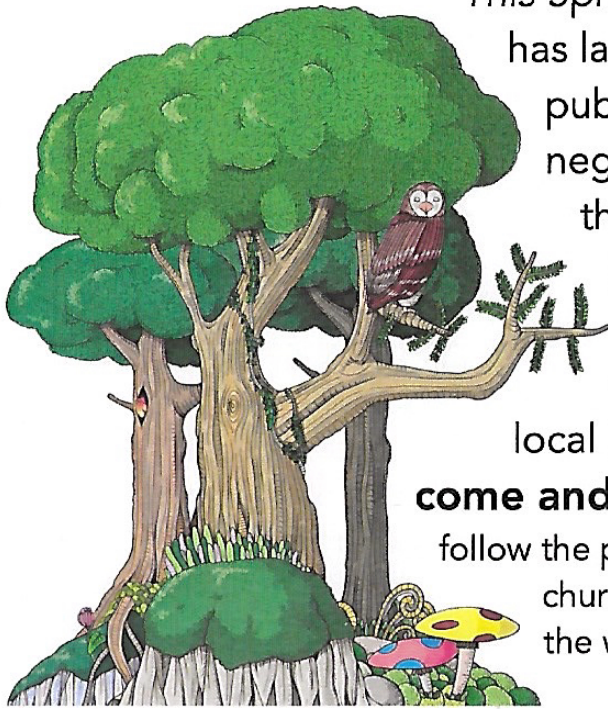


Wee Forest News

CRANSHAWS WEE FOREST

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



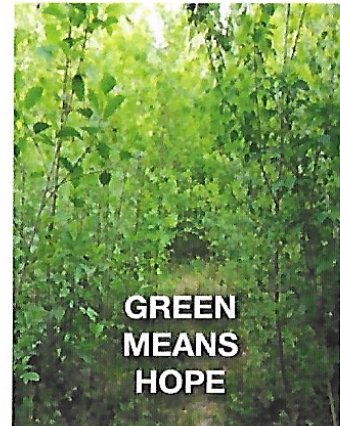
This Spring, Messy Church Cranshaws has launched a new project - growing a publicly accessible 'Wee Forest' on a neglected piece of ground beside the Church. Funded by CELCA [SCO 35892], and designed by Rachel Sutherland, it will help to develop the biodiversity of our local landscape. We invite you to **come and see!** (Reach it from the car park; follow the path right round the far end of the church, and go through the small gate in the wall.)

WHAT YOU'LL FIND. About 650 trees and shrubs, mostly native hardwood species (PTO), have been planted to create a habitat for a great variety of creatures. As the name suggests, it is not large! (just 500 sq.m.), and it will take a few years to develop. But it will be good for our environment, and will make a wee contribution to the world-wide effort to counter global warming. There's a mixture of soil types, including some wet areas and some drier, which increases the biodiversity of the area.

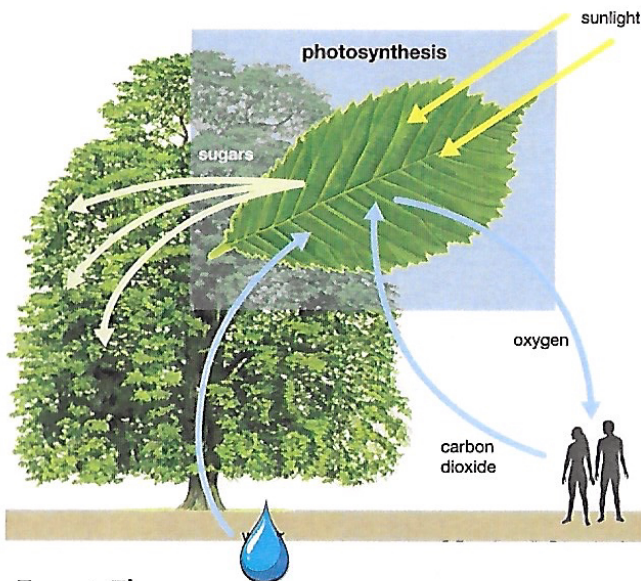
WHY? **Messy Church** is simply doing *something* as part of the global effort to care for our local environment. That alone is a worthwhile motive. It is also the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, with its Green Canopy initiative. It is a long-term project, that will develop over many years - **A heritage for the future that gives hope for today.**

A Nature Lab. As the Cranshaws Wee Forest grows it will attract many wildlife visitors, some of which will take up residence. Watching this develop will be in itself a **learning opportunity** for young and old alike, as they can track the natural progress through the years.

A Quiet Place to be. There will be sitting areas, a table, and spaces to provide a chance to enjoy being alone or with friends.



WHAT'S GOING ON BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THINGS? Summer is approaching, so trees are coming to life after the winter. Sap begins to rise through the channels hidden beneath the bark. Then leaves appear, taking carbon dioxide from the air and giving off the oxygen we all need; and sugars travel down to the roots, so the tree can grow. The leaves act like little factories, supporting the miracle of life. Equally vital for us are the *billions* of microbes (mostly bacteria, fungi and viruses) that live everywhere in nature, including in our own bodies. [There are more in a spoonful of earth than there are people on the planet!]. **Creation is amazing, and it's so important that we are grateful, and that we do our best to care for it.**



Forest Floor

The forest floor is where ferns and mosses grow unhindered, with layers of fallen vegetation sycamore seeds, wood sorrel and toadstools, to create cosy shelters for tiny forest dwellers.

Coal Tit and Pine Cone

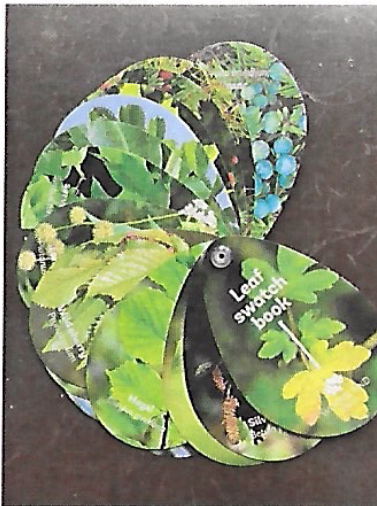
Tiny Coal Tits hopping between hanging branches are a lovely sight; busy beaks pecking at pine cones as Autumn tones spread across their stormy forest home

SOME CRANSHAWS WEE FOREST TREES

E B G L R O F E J Y L R W T L
 A N I E N G L B O D H O B G H
 K Z D R X K Z H S L I W O I O
 M L R E D A L D E R S A G C T
 A U I L I C T Y M H T N K D S
 S V L P G C H Z L W R D J Z Y
 U S P P Z V K E I L L P O R T
 N P J A Y J R L R A O A M W M
 X V A B T R L P K R K H E F A
 D P Z A E O E K L C Y O O P E
 W C H R W M A E B E T I H W B
 M O C C E H X P H O Z R Y T N
 J U N I P E R R P C H U W P R
 E S O R R E D L E U G E R N O
 E L P A M D L E I F Y Q J E H

Field Maple
 Sloe
 Hornbeam
 Alder
 Red Alder
 Bird Cherry
 Rowan
 Goat Willow
 Whitebeam
 Cheery Plum
 Crab Apple
 Yew
 Juniper
 Guelder Rose
 Holly

[Find the spelling mistake!!]



The Woodland Trust produce a number of woodland life ID guides to help identify **wildflowers, or fungi, birds, trees, or butterflies.**

At least 30 are featured in each guide.

We are offering one to whoever completes the word search and gets it to us first. The winner can choose which category of wildlife they would like. The completed word search has to be delivered to Green Hope at Ellemford. (TD11 3SG)

Can you tell? Is it Hawthorn or Blackthorn?



Both Hawthorn and Blackthorn (Sloe) play an important part in our natural landscapes. Often planted to make fields stock-proof, they help capture carbon from the atmosphere and are a welcome source of nectar and pollen for honeybees, particularly our native bumblebees and solitary bees. Both Hawthorn and Blackthorn bloom with clusters of delicate flowers. With

Blackthorn, it is flowers before leaves, but with the Hawthorn, it is leaves before flowers. You'll find Blackthorn in the Wee Forest.

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS A 'WEE FOREST'?



It is known elsewhere as a 'Tiny Forest', or globally, as a 'Miyawaki Forest', after the Japanese originator, Dr Akira Miyawaki, who developed this kind of planting in the 1970's. A Wee Forest is a small, densely planted woodland of native species, which creates a sustainable

habitat that can be studied and enjoyed.

The planting method means the forest grows quickly without artificial fertilisers, sprays etc, or intensive maintenance. After the first two years it needs very little work to keep it going. **As a nature-rich, accessible green space for the wider community, It helps visitors, children and adults to reconnect with the earth, and enjoy improved health and well-being.**

There are currently over 60 'Tiny Forests' in the UK, and many hundreds around the world. According to Nature Scotland, 20 Wee Forests are being planted from Ayrshire to Aberdeen in 2021/22, and now here in Cranshaws in the Borders. So there will be a continuously developing habitat right on the doorstep. Come and see, and watch nature at work.

OUR THANKS TO a great team of helpers from our local Teen Challenge Centre at Whitchester. Also to a lot of expert assistance from local friends and residents from Longformacus and Abbey St Bathans. It was a great occasion, and the beginning of a new story.



HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

WE NEED

VOLUNTEERS for a work in progress, so If you would like to be involved from time to time, please let us know. If you might be able to spare an hour or so to help us make a difference, please get in touch.

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Email: bill@greenhope.co.uk